

OCTOBER 2005 WEATHER SUMMARY

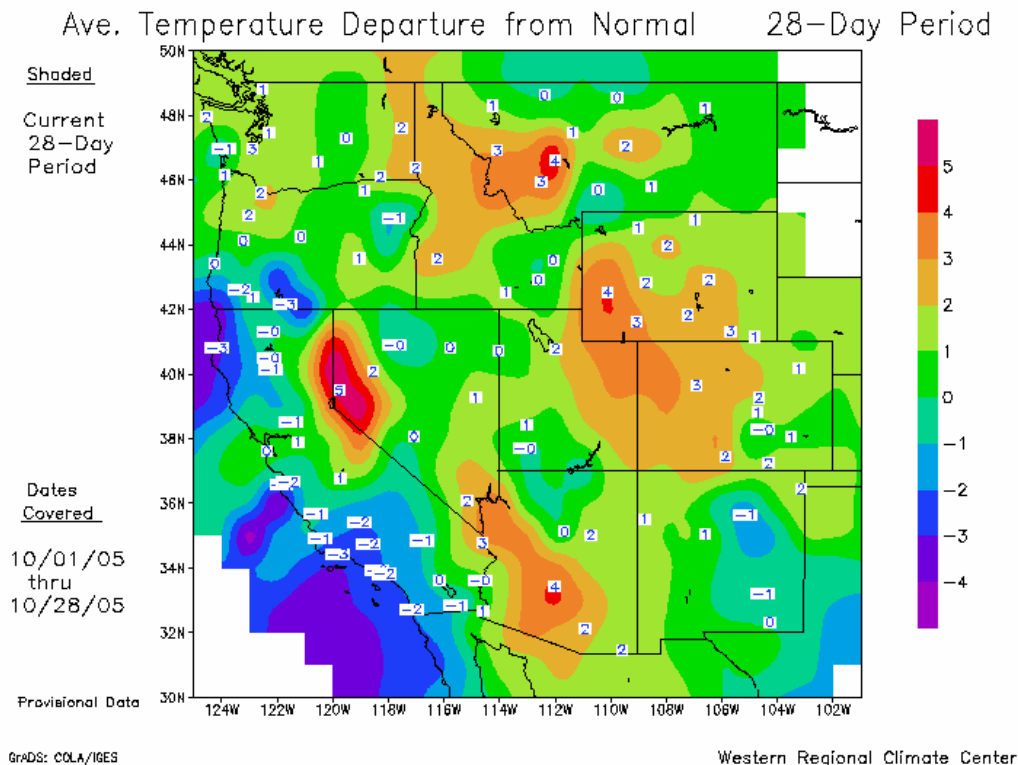
RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER

INTRODUCTION

A ridge of high pressure over California brought above normal temperatures with little or no rainfall during the first two weeks of October. A series of pacific troughs and a low pressure area brought below normal temperatures and periods of showers during the last two weeks of October. Winds were mainly southerly during the month. However, there was one strong offshore wind event at the beginning of the month and one at the very end of the month.

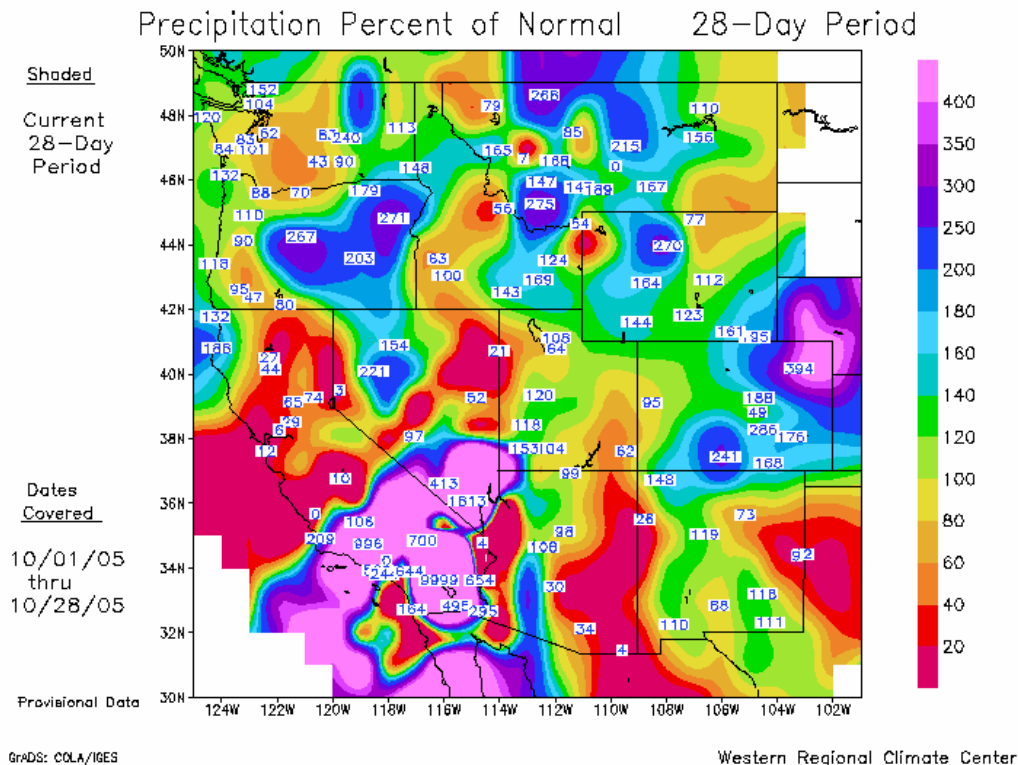
TEMPERATURES

A ridge of high pressure over California brought above normal temperatures during the first two weeks of October. A series of pacific troughs and a low pressure area brought below normal temperatures during the last two weeks of the month. Across Southern California, many valley locations had maximum temperatures in the 80s and 90s with the ridges of high pressure and upper 60s and 70s with the pacific troughs and area of low pressure. Normally, the valley locations of Southern California are in the mid 80s to start the month and mid 70s to end the month. For the entire month, maximum temperatures ranged from 2 degrees below normal over some South Coast locations to 3 degrees above normal over some Eastern Sierra and Eastern Desert locations. There were no record temperatures set at riverside during the month.



PRECIPITATION

A low pressure area off the Southern California coast brought showers and thunderstorms to Southern California October 16th – October 18th. Most locations over Southern California received between 1 and 2 inches of rainfall during this period with little to no rainfall over Central California. Otherwise, pacific troughs brought periods of light rain to Central California with little or no rainfall over Southern California during the last two weeks of the month. Over Central California, from the Sierra Foothills eastward most locations received between a half and 1 inch of rainfall and most locations west of the Sierra Foothills received less than a quarter inch of rainfall. Overall, most locations over Southern California received above normal precipitation. Most locations over Central California from the Sierra Foothills eastward received near normal precipitation, while most locations west of the Sierra Foothills received below normal precipitation. Riverside received 1.26 inches of rainfall for the month, when normally they receive 0.26 inches.



WINDS

Winds were mainly southerly during the entire month of October. Afternoon winds were mainly between 10 and 20 mph. However, there were two strong offshore wind events over Southern California; one at the beginning of the month and one at the very end of the month. The first offshore wind event occurred October 4th – October 5th. Winds over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California were 20 to 30 mph with gusts in the 40s and 50s. The second offshore wind event occurred on October 31st. Winds over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California were 15 to 25 mph with gusts in the 30s.

FIRES

There were only five fires this month, and all within the first six days of the month. All five fires were in Southern California. Of the five fires, two of them were large fires. The total acres burned were 10,912. The largest fire was the Woodhouse fire at 6,442 acres.

CONCLUSION

Overall, October had near normal temperatures. Precipitation was above normal over Southern California and near to below normal over Central California. Winds were

mainly southerly the entire month. There was one strong offshore wind event at the beginning of the month and one at the very end of the month.